



## Kakadu National Park

### RESCUE PLAN FOR THREATENED PLANTS

This project involves practical steps to improve the conservation of the threatened plant species of Kakadu National Park through ex situ seed conservation.

### Year 2 update (3-year project)

#### OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS

- Seed collections have been undertaken by Kakadu staff, Traditional Owners and Aboriginal ranger groups, the National Seed Bank at the Australian National Botanic Gardens (ANBG), and the Darwin Botanic Gardens. Five field trips have occurred over 2015 and 2016.
- Seed and/or cuttings have been collected from 17 target species, including two EPBC listed and 14 State listed threatened plant species. Opportunistic collections have also been made from an additional 67 plant species.
- Propagation trials are underway and have shown promising results. The ANBG has germinated and grown the EPBC Listed Kakadu Hibiscus (*Hibiscus brennanii*) and the Darwin Botanic Gardens have propagated 32 species, including NT listed species *Calytrix inopinata*, *Bolbitis quoyana* and *Freycinetia excelsa*.
- Surveys are being carried out to establish the population and distribution of target threatened plant species. A survey of the NT listed Vulnerable *Hibbertia* sp. South Magela located 2351 plants, more than double the number compared to the previous estimate of less than 1000 plants in 2014.
- A population assessment of EPBC listed Critically Endangered Graveside Gorge Wattle (*Acacia equisitifolia*) is planned for April 2017.



Jenny Hunter, Kakadu Ranger, collecting *Hibiscus brennanii* seeds.